

critical digest

139 East 47 St. NY 17 NY
EL 5-6894 T. M. Kraus



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This Week

Waiting for Godot had a hectic time. Revival of Samuel Beckett's controversial play, this time with an all Negro cast, drew split notices from critics (see page 2). The second night's performance did not take place due to a labor dispute with the stage-hand's union. Producer Michael Myerberg announced to the audience that the curtain was kept down because the union had demanded the addition of 2 workers to the backstage crew of 5. He planned to take the case to court, but settled with the union the next morning. Though a closing notice was posted, the play will continue another week due to concessions from the theatre unions.

Plays

Four plays are in their final week. The Matchmaker, The Apple Cart both start tours next week, while The Reluctant Debutante and Candide will also close. . . A Clearing in the Woods business has improved and show will remain open. . . Bells Are Ringing price scale top rises to \$8.05 April 1. . . Packaged in Paris, the Harry Revel-George Marior, Jr. musicale due the week of April 8. . . Hunter's Moon, Marc Connelly's new play, postponed to Oct due to casting problems. . . Musical version of Moliere's The Doctor in Spite of Himself to be presented by Lynn Loesser and Shamus Locke. . . Jo Mielziner will present a musical version of Elmer Rice's Dream Girl next season.

Players

Martyn Green plays Cyril Ritchard's role in Visit to Small Planet when latter appears in Met's La Perichole. . . Rex Everhart subbing for Myron McCormick, No Time for Sergeants

Calendar

Eugenia-Ambassador 1/30. Tallulah Bankhead stars in dramatization of Henry James' "The Europeans. . . Christophe Colomb-Winter Garden 1/30. First bill of Renaud-Barrault repertory company in 8 play French repertory. Presented by S. Hurok.

Special Events

"Stars of the Drawing Room" exhibit of costumes, paintings, photographs opens at Museum of City of NY. . . "Serenade to White House" twenty-two act revue with top Broadway stars presented at American Theatre Wing Command Performance at Waldorf Astoria, \$50 per person.

Other Broadways

Equity agreed to allow 3 British actors to play in touring company of My Fair Lady. . . \$1 student tickets to Theatre Guild shows in Pittsburgh offered. . . Stamford, Conn, Playhouse winter season to start Feb 5. . . Pajama Game scenery at Daytona Beach, Fla, damaged when part of grid collapsed

Theatre TV Notes

The Grand Prize, Ronald Alexander play presented in NY in 1955, to be on NBC Robert Montgomery Show Feb 11. . . Boris Karloff and Bruce Gordon added to The Lark presented on NBC Feb 10 on Hall of Fame. . . The Ballad of Baby Doe musical drama will be presented on ABC Omnibus Feb 10. Slated for Broadway next fall.

Theatre Film Notes

Me, Candido, now at Greenwich Mews, bought by Continental Film Distributors. . . MGM to finance independent film version of Tunnel of Love.

Digests of Current NYC Theatre Reviews

The Hidden River-Playhouse 1/23. 6 pro votes and 1 con vote from Coleman, Mirror, greeted dramatization of Storm Jameson's novel presented by Martin Gabel and Henry Margolis. Writing by Ruth and Augustus Goetz and performances from cast headed by Dennis King, Lili Darvas, Peter Brandon praised by majority. Mirror aisle-sitter filed negative view because he feared subject of French collaborators is shop-worn and because he felt melodrama fell apart at the end. Atkinson, Times, noted that recent The River Line digged deeper into subject, but cheered writing and performances as superb. A large size piece of theatrical excitement in which the message does not get in the way of enjoyment, added Beckley, Herald Tribune. Except for the fact that he couldn't get emotionally involved about the dead hero the play is about, Chapman, News, enjoyed the proceedings. Suspense and suspicion galore, plus some skillful performances make a visit worthwhile for McClain, Journal American. Two milder pro notices were filed by Watts, Post, and Donnelley, World-Telegram & Sun. Former found it far from completely satisfying in its action and ideas, but he thought its concern with a painful subject was inescapably stimulating. While latter thought start labored, after which it gets down to some excellent, exciting business. Robert Lewis is the director.

Measure for Measure-Phoenix 1/22. 7 rave votes for NY revival of Stratford, Conn, Shakespeare Festival production of Bard's comedy. Nina Foch, Morris Carnovsky, Arnold Moss and Richard Waring repeated their roles in play staged by John Houseman and Jack Landau. Witty and pertinent with brilliant scenery, skillful staging and fine acting, summed Atkinson, Times. Sometimes elegant, sometimes rowdy, but by and by large robust version, agrees Beckley, Herald Tribune. Shakespeare's version of Guys and Dolls presented in a lusty, busty howling garb, noted McHarry, News. Brilliant entertainment, humorous, cynical, ironic, brightly bawdy and one of the finest, freshest and most imaginative presentations of the Bard in recent theatrical history, shouted Watts, Post. Coleman, Mirror, also noted that Damon Runyon would have relished this raffish version. A pleasant evening, quietly concludes World-Telegram & Sun man. McClain, Journal American, agreed with his colleagues on the merit of the production, but remained luke-warm on his opinion of the Shakespeare play billing it as below the Bard's best.

Waiting for Godot-Barrymore-1/21 2 cons(Times & Herald Tribune) and 4 pros (Mirror, Post, Journal American & World Telegram & Sun filed on second production of Samuel Beckett's play presented this season with an all Negro cast by Michael Myerberg. Mantan Moreland, Earle Hyman, Geoffrey Holder, Rex Ingram and Rex Chamberlain make up this year's cast, Herbert Berghof once again directed. Times con view due to tedious second act which suggests a minstrel show, though critic did like first act. Terry, Herald Tribune, thought play miscast. Pro side spearheaded by Watts, Post, who thought current production not as dynamic as last season's, but found this odd and haunting play continues to exert a curious provocative spell and remains one of the notable works of modern drama. McClain, Journal American, approved because he felt it has great style and humor is and is worth a visit, even though he doesn't think play as important as some of his friends do. Donnelley, WT&S, filed a pro vote, but thought 1/2 Godot was plenty.

In Good King Charles Golden Days-Downtown-1/24 . 4 pro notices(Times, Herald Tribune, Post, World Telegram) filed for 1939 Shaw play presented for first NY appraisal. Most agreed that "play" was more of a literary essay, but a charming, typically witty Shaw essay. Atkinson, Times, raved for all departments, concluding that everyone has contributed to one of the best Off Broadway evenings of the season. Beckley, Herald Tribune, enjoyed it as a well-played essay. Acted with charm and skill, added Donnelly, WT & S. Good off Broadway fare, provocative and entertaining, added Herridge, Post.

London Theatre



Plays

Stratford-upon-Avon season opens April 2 and will last 35 weeks. As You Like It, King John, Julius Caesar, Cymbeline, and The Tempest will be presented. Peggy Ashcroft, Alec Clunes will star.

Oh Men, Oh Women with Charles Chaplin, Jr. will open later in month... Master of Santiago with Donald Wolfit due Feb 20 at Lyric, Hammersmith after tour... The Month of Sundays with Ian Hunter will be presented by Michael Codron... The Member of the Wedding will open at Royal Court Feb 5.

Players

Edwige Feuillere will present her company for 4 weeks in March at Palace... Zachary Scott arrived for rehearsals for Subway in Sky starring Margaret Lockwood... Gwen Frangcon-Davies has replaced Pamela Brown in The Chalk Garden.

Club Theatres

Lucienne Hill's translation of Armand Salacrou's Histoire de Rire opens Jan 23 at Arts with Brenda Bruce... The New Chicken by John Ommerod opened Jan 22 at New Lindsay... At the Drop of A Hat revue also playing at New Lindsay by and with Michael Flanders and Donald Swann.

London Theatre TV

The Bride and Bachelor scenes from Duchess on BBC-TV Jan 21... Mrs. Gibbons Boys scenes from Westminster on BBC-TV also.

For Stage Struck Only



*This weekly NYC newsletter digests---Complete theatre news(page 1), reviews of all openings(page 2), comments by critics(page 6.)

* Plus NYC critics suggestions on theatre books, records. (page 7.)

* Plus Off Broadway and Full Summer Theatre coverage (page 7). London (page 3.)

* Plus complete business & critical data on all current shows(page 4 & 5.)

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CRITICAL DIGEST---139 E 47, NYC.

 Jan 30, 1957 PLAYGOERS GUIDE chart of CRITICAL DIGEST, 19 E 47, NYC-EL 5-6894

This weekly chart of CRITICAL DIGEST, the weekly NYC theatre newsletter, presents up-to-minute data on current business and critical reception of all current Broadway and Off-Broadway shows. Subscribers to CRITICAL DIGEST may write or phone for any other specific data or for late reviews.

"C/D" Critics-figures refer to percentage of PRO reviews filled by NYC daily drama critics. PRO means show was recommended as entertaining and/or stimulating, not if critic predicted if show should be a hit.

"B/B"-Business-figures refer to percentage of gross ticket sales of past week and preceding weeks. "B/B" figure refers to past week's attendance. "Cap"-figure refers to capacity of house. Figures that follow are gross estimates by Variety for past week and preceding weeks. All figures are in thousands of dollars. Thus "Cap \$41-\$34-\$30" means that capacity of house is \$41,000, that past week's gross was \$34,000 and week before \$30,000, etc.

APPLE CART	235 W 45	60% C- 3 Cons-Tribune, News, J. American	50% B- Cap \$34--\$16--\$14	\$22 \$11 \$16 \$20 \$24
Plymouth \$5. 75	CI 6-9156			
AUNTIE MAME	238 W 44	100% C- Mostly for R. Russell, 8% C minus her.	100% B- Cap \$43--\$23 \$43 \$43 \$43 \$43	
Broadhurst \$5. 75	CI 6-6699			
BELLS ARE RINGING	230 W 44	80% C- 2 Cons show-Times, WT&S, 100% Judy	100% B- Cap \$55--\$55 \$55 \$55 \$55 \$55	
Shubert \$7. 50	CI 6-5990			
CANDIDE	310 W 45	80% C- 2 Cons- Tribune, J. American	60% B- Cap \$52--\$32 \$31 \$38 \$32 \$43 \$44	
Beck \$8. 05	CI 6-6363			
CLEARING WOODS	151 W 44	10% C- 1 Pro- WT & S,	30% B- Cap \$31--\$11	
Belasco \$5. 75	JU 6-7950			
DAMN YANKEE	226 W 46	100% C- Unanimous approval music & cast	65% B- Cap \$52--\$ 30 \$40 \$38 \$32 \$43 \$44	
46th St \$8. 05	CI 6-4271			
DIARY A. FRANK	138 W 48	100% C- Unanimous praises Pulitzer Prize	50% B- Cap \$28--\$14 \$18 \$24 \$15 \$18 \$18 \$22	
Cort \$5. 75	CI 5-4289			
HAPPIEST MILLION, 140 W 45	60% C- 3 Cons-Tribune, Post, J. American	100% B- Cap \$25--\$25--\$19 \$24 \$17 \$20 \$23 \$25		
Lycium \$5. 75	JU 2-3897			
HAPPY HUNTING	245 W 45	100% C-for Merman, 10% for show-Mirror	100% B- Cap \$70--\$70 \$70 \$70 \$70 \$70 \$70	
Majestic \$8. 05	CI 6-0730			
INHERIT WIND	208 W 41	90% C- Funke, Times, solo con voter	65% B- Cap \$31--\$21 \$25 \$31 \$19 \$22 \$24 \$26	
National \$5. 75	PE 6-8220			
LIL ABERN	235 W 44	60% C- 3 Cons- Tribune, J. Am. WT & S	100% B- Cap \$58--\$58 \$58 \$58 \$58 \$58 \$58	
St. James \$8. 05	LA 4-4664			

LONG DAYS J.	230 W 46	100% C- Unanimous raves for O'Neill drama	100% B- Cap \$30--\$30 \$30 \$30 \$30 \$30 \$30 \$30	
Hayes \$6. 90	CI 6-6380			
MAJOR BARBARA	245 W 45	70% C- 2 Cons- Times, Tribune	85% B- Cap \$37--\$31 \$30 \$25 \$31 \$34 \$37 \$37	
Morisco \$6. 90	CI 6-6230			
MATCHMAKER	245 W 44	90% C- Waite, Post, filled sole con review	50% B- Cap \$25--\$18--\$18 \$19 \$13 \$13 \$17 \$18	
Booth \$5. 75	CI 6-5969			
MIDDLE NIGHT	250 W 52	20% C- 2 Pro Play-Mir. J. Am. 100% Robinson	75% B- Cap \$38--\$29 \$26 \$34 \$23 \$27 \$32	
ANTA \$5. 75	CI 6-8870			
MOST HAPPY FELLA	246 W 45	90% C- Tribune, sole con voter on musical	95% B- Cap \$57--\$53 \$52 \$57 \$45 \$52 \$57 \$57	
Imperial \$7. 50	CO 5-2412			
MR. WONDERFUL	1681 Bway	10% C- Chapman, News, sole pro, 100% C Davis	45% B- Cap \$71- \$635 \$34 \$41 \$21 \$27 \$35 \$41	
Broadway \$7. 50	CI 7-2887			
MY FAIR LADY	1685 Bway	100% C- Unanimous raves for hit musical	100% B- Cap \$64--\$64 \$64 \$64 \$64 \$64 \$64 \$64	
Hellinger \$8. 05	PL 7-7064			
NO TIME SGTS	250 W 52	100% C- Unanimous praises for soldier comedy	75% B- Cap \$38--\$29 \$33 \$32 \$24 \$28 \$34 \$35	
Alvin \$5. 75	CI 5-5226			
RELUCTANT DEB	123 W 43	90% C- 1 Cons- WT & S. on English Comedy	40% B- Cap \$27--\$11 \$11 \$14 \$10 \$12 \$19 \$21	
Muller \$5. 75	BR 9-3970			
SEPARATE TABLES	236 W 45	100% C- Unanimous praises for Eng. twin-bill	95% B- Cap \$31--\$ 29 \$25 \$29 \$29 \$29 \$29 \$31 \$31	
Music Box \$5. 75	CI 6-4636			
UNCLE WILLIE	252 W 45	100% C for M. Skolnik, 0% C minus him	80% C- Cap \$24--\$19 \$14 \$15 \$15	
Golden \$5. 75	CI 6-6740			
WALTZ OF TOR,	259 W 49	90% C- 1 Cons- WT & S		
Coronet \$5. 75	CI 6-8870			

" OFF

BROADWAY "

CAPACITY WINGS Royal	62 E 4 PL 3-9415	4 Pro-Times, Post, Women Wear, Variety
EASTER	83 E 4 OR 4-5710	2 Pro-Times, Post
4th St. \$3.45		4 Con- Tribunes, J. Am., Wor.-Tel., Women Wear
ICEMAN COMETH	5 Star Sq OR 5-9437	6 Pro-Times, Trib, Mir., J. Am., WT &S, Post
Circle \$3.60		
ME CANDIDO	131 W 13 CH 2-9831	5 Pro-Times, Trib, Post, Women Wear, Variety
G. Mews		
MESANTHROPE	211 E 60 TE 2-9220	6 Pro-Times, Mirror, Post, WT&S, WWD, Variety
1. East \$3.45		
PURPLE DUST	31 Commerce Ch 2-4468	4 Pro-Times, Trib, Post, WT &S
Cherry Lane \$3.85		2 Con- News, J. Am.
SHADOW YEARS	15-2nd Av MU 9-0550	3 Pro-Times, Post, Variety
Open Stage		1 Con- Women Wear
SHOESTRING 157	59 & 6th CI 7-7000	6 Pro-Times, Trib, News, Mir., Post, WT&S
B. Plaza \$3.60		1 Con- J. American
TAKE GIANT STEP	LY 6-9947 351 E 74	5 Pro-Times, Trib, Post, Women Wear, Variety
Jan Hus \$3.45		1 Con- J. American
TITUS ANDRON	729 E 6 MO 3-0794	2 Pro-Wor-Tel-Sun, Variety
Shakes, Worksp.		1 Con- Times
3 PENNY OPERA	121 Chris. WA 4-8782	3 Pros-Times, Trib, Post
De Lys \$4.85		
TWELFTHNIGHT	264 W 87 SU 7-2277	5 Pro-Times, Trib, J. Am., WT&S, Variety
St. Ignatius \$3.45		
VOLPONE	111 E. Houston GR 7-8320	4 Pro-Times, Mirror, WT &S, Women Wear
Rooftop \$3.60		4 Con- Trib, Post, News, Variety

" RATINGS OF NYC CRITICS "

1954-57 season ratings of NYC drama critics on CURRENT Broadway shows by CRITICAL DIGEST. %'s figures are percentages of favorable reviews in comparison to current shows. Variety 1955-56 and 1954-55 season figures are percentages of favorable reviews for entire season.

	C.D. %	PROS	CONS	Variety 1955-56	1954-55
Atkinson, Times	80%	18	5	.490	.607
Kerr, H. Tribune	65%	15	8	.394	.354
Chapman, News	90%	21	2	.527	.580
Coleman, Mirror	90%	21	2	.454	.566
Felt, Post	75%	19	6	.541	.426
Goldman, Am	75%	19	6	.531	.532
Donnelly, WT&S	80%	18	8	.306	.549
(ethawkins 1955)					

" THEATRE CALENDAR "

Hidden River- Playhouse- 1/23	Sin of Pat Muldoon- 3/13
In Good King Charles- Downtown 1/24	Minden Voyage-Barrymore 3/14
Petting Shed- Bijou- 1/29	Strategy of Murder- 3/15
Engels- Ambassador- 1/30	Duchess of Malfi- Phoenix 3/19
Barrault & Renaud-W. Garden 1/30	Orpheus Descending 3/21
Ensembles Dont Send-Provincetown 1/31	
Mrs. Patterson- Davenport 2/5	Moon for Misbegotten-Bijou 4/8
Visit to Small Planet-Booth 2/6	Hunter's Moon- 4/1
Jerry Lewis- Palace 2/7	Foolin' Ourselves 4/7
A House Remember-Actors Play. 2/6	
Doctor Faustus-Blackwings 2/7	Shinbone Alley- 4/10
The Trial of Lorraine Hansberry 2/13	First Gentleman- 4/11
Holiday for Lovers-Longacre 2/14	Tom Sawyer- Phoenix 4/18
Box of Water Colors-Bway Chapel 2/17	New Girl in Town- 5/8
Evening of GBS- Tempo 2/19	
Taming of Shrew-Phoenix 2/19	
Hole in Head- Plymouth 2/28	
Ziegfeld Follies-W. Garden 2/28	
Look Back in Anger- 3/7	
Lisa- 3/7	

" TV THEATRE PROGRAMS "

Feb 10- ABC- Ballad of Baby Doe- on Omnibus
Feb 10- NBC- The Lark- with Julie Harris, Boris Karloff
Mar 4- NBC- Romeo & Juliet- with Old Vic on Producers Showcase
Mar 31- NBC- Cinderella-by Rodgers & Hammerstein with Julie Andrews
Apr 1- NBC- Great Sebastian- with Lunta on Producers Showcase
May 11- NBC- George M. Cohan story with Mickey Rooney

"C. D. VIEWS ON CURRENT SHOWS "

PROS: Damn Yankees, Diary Anne Frank, Happiest Millionaire, Inherit Wind, Long Day's Journey, Most Happy Fella, Separate Tables, Uncle Willy
Walls of Jericho
CONS: Iceman Cometh, Me Candido, Misanthrope, Purple Dust, Shoestring '57
Take Giant Step, Twelfth Night
Middle Night, Reluctant Debutante



GREEN
ROOM
DEPARTMENT

"FAIR" VIEWS... Robert Coote, who portrays Col. Pickering in My Fair Lady, was suggested by McClain, Journal American, as a stalemate replacement for Rex Harrison... Casting an important theatrical role isn't exactly like tapping the handiest guy for a vacancy in a labor gang, pointed out World-Telegram & Sun editorial... The bright spot in the fight should show up the basic absurdity of the whole squabble over national quotas in acting, hopes Watts, Post.

COLUMN TIPS... Clifton Daniels may inherit Brooks Atkinson, Times, reviewers post, Winchell hears... Show business kids consider My Fair Lady riot a publicity stunt for newcomer Edward Mulhare, whispers Farrell... Harry Belafonte will have right to okay or veto cast members of Jamaica musical, reports Kilgallen.

CRITICAL THOUGHTS... Good intentions and hard work have never been a substitute for good work, Chapman, News, reminds critic-baiter Faye Emerson, Protective Custody. . . Our contemporary writers for the stage are currently pretty much in the doldrums, surmises Watts, Post. . . Donnelly, World-Telegram & Sun, is glad that A Clearing in the Woods won a reprieve. With all its faults the drama is a relatively daring break from routine theatricals, handsomely staged and expertly acted.

"GODOT" A YEAR... To the small legend of Waiting for Godot followers, producer Michael Myerberg feels he owes an annual production, he noted in Herald Tribune article. He thinks he can best serve them by finding a new central production viewpoint each year. This year a Negro company, next year an Irish company, etc.

DRAMA MAIL BOX... Balcony seats have increased 100% since 1940, notes Times reader... First several weeks of a show should be reserved for mail order tickets rather than benefits, suggests a Variety reader... Author Arthur Laurents letter to Times hopes that his A Clearing in the Woods will be able to continue. It would be wonderful for the theatre, he concluded, if a play that is not every-day could run successfully simply because there is a large enough theatre-going audience which relies on its own taste and has its own measure of enjoyment.

SECOND GUESSES... Chapman, News, hopes the tentative closing date of Feb 2 for Candide will be postponed for a long time. A second visit, plus a couple of hearings of the record, has strengthened his original high regard for the work...

INTERVIEW HI-LITES... Most actors have accepted their greatest roles only because they needed the money, Michael Myerberg, Waiting for Godot, told Peper, WT & S. Then when actors get rich they usually act in terrible plays. Producer of Negro version of Beckett play also detailed idea he had for Romeo and Juliet, in which the Montagues would be white and the Capulets colored... John Houseman's plans for the Shakespeare Festival, Conn, include a 13 week summer season at Stratford, followed by a 14 to 20 week tour of the country, plus a 6 or 8 week NYC run in repertory, he told Silver, News.



OFF BROADWAY

\$10,000 grant received by Shakespeare Theatre Workshop from Doris Duke Foundation to put on summer East River Amphitheatre productions.

Brazilian government reported by Variety to be backrolling double bill to be presented Jan 31 at Provincetown Playhouse by John Fostini. Coffee will be served during intermission of two plays by Brazilian authors, Enemies Dont Send Flowers by Pedro Bloch and A God Slept Here by Guilherme Figueiredo.

Mrs. Patterson will be revived Feb 5 at Davenport Theatre. Cast will be all-white and will be presented by Trio Productions... Wedding in Japan will be revived by Verax Productions March 11 at Greystone Theatre, Broadway & 91st St. ... A House Remembered by Louis Lipka will be presented by S. Beryl Lush at Actors Playhouse Feb 6.

Stage Society will present "An Evening of GBS" Feb 19 at Tempo Playhouse including O'Flaherty, VC and Press Cuttings. .. A Box of Water Colors a new play by G. Wood will be presented for 10 Sundays by Broadway Chapel Players on Feb 17 at Broadway Congregational Church... On Whitman Avenue, an inter-racial drama by Maxine Wood will be presented for 4 week-ends at Chapel of West End Collegiate Church, 245 W 77.

One-woman Hamlet with Siobhan McKenna will be presented Jan 28 at 7 30 PM and Jan 29 at 2 PM at Theatre de Lys by NY Chapter of ANTA... Louis Gossett, who created the lead in original Broadway production, replaces Bill Gunn in Jan Hus production of Take A Giant Step. .. Purple Dust at Cherry Lane providing free limousine service to key bus and subway stops. Phone theatre for details.

T HEATRE

BOOK

COMMENTS



"Make Believe" by Edward Goodman (Scribner) was rated as an academic dissertation on the art of acting by a former director of Washington Sq Players and instructor of American Academy of Dramatic Arts, by Down, Variety. Book is stiff and prosaic.

"The Ziegfeld Follies" by Marjorie Farnsworth and "A Pictorial History of Burlesque" by Bernad Sobel, both published by Putnam were highly praised by Wenning, Herald Tribune

THEATRE

RECORDS

COMMENTS

Bells Are Ringing original cast album (Columbia) and Li'l Abner original cast album (Columbia) were both approved by Variety mugg. Former stands up as the stronger of two, trade paper noted. Score is brighter and more varied, and Judy Holliday comes through as a savvy recorder. Abner score was termed workmanlike but earthbound.



T HEATRE

TV

COMMENTS

Oedipus Rex on ABC Omnibus with Christopher Plummer in title role was cheered by Gould, Times, as a distinguished achievement. Brilliant lead performance, excellent supporting cast, a coherent adaptation were credited and applauded.



" PROS & CONS BY TMK "

Measure for Measure at Phoenix is a lively, worthwhile revival of the Stratford, Conn. production of the seldom done Shakespeare play. Adaptable company insures that US will soon have a group as accomplished as the recent Old Vic visitors. It is good news for all non-mobile theatre fans that the group plans to present a NY season yearly in addition to a nationwide tour of their summer efforts.

* * *

Waiting for Godot second night audience waited in vain to see this year's version of the Beckett play, promised as an annual diet by producer. The fact that the labor dispute which halted the performance was settled the following morning shows that in one way the audience was taken advantage of. Stagehands in question received a full week's pay, but the second night audience didn't see a show. Oh well, wait till next year!

* * *

The continuation of A Clearing in the Woods is joyful news to all concerned with theatre. In spite of a critical drubbing the play through persistence, plus some wise advertising, has been able to build an audience and plans to run indefinitely. Faith, a plan of action and a small ad budget can often offset poor reviews if given a chance.

* * *

Box-office robbery of an off Broadway theatre is a cultural compliment to the producer by some egg-head robbers.

* * *

Theatre-goers have a fighting chance for six new legit houses in the proposed Lincoln Square project if and when it is ever built. Announced plans for other new theatres seem little more than ideas for press releases. The only real good news on the playhouse front is that the theatre may recover several of the houses used in recent years by TV. Thus once again the theatre fan can be thankful to the new medium.

* * *

In the continued producer-Equity disputes on alien players several points are lost in the scuffle. The foremost is that Equity, as a labor union, is obligated to the federal government to live up to the letter of the McCarren Alien Act. Producers should argue with Congress on the basic provisions rather than putting the actor's union on the spot in each case.

* * *

\$1 student tickets to Theatre Guild shows in Pittsburgh is a move to be cheered and followed. Theatre-going is a developed habit and high school and college students cannot develop such a habit at current legit ticket prices. The NY League of Theatre 70 cent student ticket plan, recently announced, is another step in right direction of building tomorrow theatre audiences.

* * *

Show-must-go-on- legend is dying hard this season. Miss Bankhead's halting performances due to an injured hand is an example of wisdom.

* * *

